British Consulate Rome Sep 19
(P.M.) 1861

My dear Tom

I had the pleasure to receive yours of the 2? I am glad to be able to answer its satisfactorily — An excellent house just such as Mr Disney requires I am just quitting and he may treat with Mrs Hare & Miss Paul 116 Sloane St from whom I have it — There are 14 good furnished rooms & one large Saloon — Kitchen & 8 beds The rent is £20 a month, but it will be as that Mr Disney should see Mrs Hare were it only to know if she intends to return to it herself — I took it 3 months since for the Summer, indeed there was no other I could have at the commencement of my Consulate & my term finishes this month

Of course I require an unfurnished house at a moderate rent & this I have got, & now

about to remove to the Pitti Palace I have 3
windows over the famous fountain of Trevi
- but I have the serious expence of furnishing
tho' it will be done by degrees & with the kind help
of many Roman P.s who are like brothers to
me & assist my every purpose my
You will be delighted to hear of my great
success which I cannot quite account for
as I cannot imagine my ability does it
tho' I have a deal of tact & having all
things about - I have been so fortunate as
to accomplish the most difficult diplomatic
points. - At this moment I have the high
gratification of sending to Naples a prototype
the brother of my excellent secretary, Mr Max
while studying in the University as Engineer
was taken up on suspicion of being into
Prison & took appearance ruined for ever
I took him up, proved in various efforts
to the Governor of Rome that he was quite
guiltless of the charge & at last got his
liberation, but what a task, how I
worked

& how I have got him a capital place as Engineer of the Naples railway & he goes away today - 'Tis no small happiness to be able to do such good & I could detail some 40 cases, all turned out well - The Authorities esteem me, admit me always, & grant me all I ask - My new life is a pleasant one after I am in the midst of painful things

Glad I am to find that you see me well spoken of in the papers for I have great opposition & many enemies, but notice them not - My painting flourishing & I am an early riser & can work late - I must tell you I bought an old ragged picture, it was on the ground, but my artist eye detected a real Annibal Carracci & I bought it for 9.6 - 'Tis a large 5 feet life size, & I have worked at it near 6 weeks, one intire Angel is my painting - my first all think it an original picture & of great value, so I live hope - The mending & straining cost me near £3.10, so my outlay is not great

You can have no idea what varied life I have & how I have to tax my own simple

the liberations of all the unfortunate I ask for – I have received the grateful acknowledgments of hundreds of poor suffering families to whom I have restored Father, Brother, or Son – 'tis well that I thus get a good name to enable to tell F.P. Russell of the real sufferings of the Roman people in fact passing thro my own hands –

The weather is now beautifully mild & the trees in blossom, Strawberrys quite common – The wild boar has just come to table kind of game – My Walter is to arrive in mid December & stay 3 months with me – You will have heard of the very good news of dear boy at Sydney – he has last worked his way by hard study & has got the Assayership against 6 competitors also he has received a Volunteer Corps "Captain Severn" & inactive service against the rebels about the Chinese – I am so rejoiced poor fellow how he has tried – I hope this will find you well & not suffering from rheumatism – [redacted] Your loving brother Joe